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Annual Accountability
Report 1995 - 96

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**SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION
ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT
Fiscal Year 1995-1996**

**MISSION STATEMENT
(adopted 11/2/94)**

The mission of the South Carolina Forestry Commission is to protect, promote, enhance, and nurture the forest lands of South Carolina in a manner consistent with achieving the greatest good for its citizens. The Commission will utilize Total Quality Management concepts in meeting its responsibilities. Responsibilities extend to all forest lands, both rural and urban, and to all associated forest values and amenities including, but not limited to timber, wildlife, water quality, air quality, soil protection, recreation, and aesthetics. The Forestry Commission shall have general and specific responsibilities for the promulgation and enforcement of laws and regulations related to protection of the forest and its associated values. The Commission shall be responsible for promoting and developing the appropriate technologies to accomplish its objectives, and for the development and promulgation of Best Management Practice Guidelines for South Carolina's forest lands.

South Carolina Forestry Commission
FY 1995-96

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PROGRAM - Forest Landowner Assistance

STATE DOCUMENTS

Program Goal:

To assist South Carolina's forest landowners with the protection, regeneration, and management of the forest resource, making ownership and investment in forest lands environmentally sound and economically practical.

Program Objectives:

Through active fire prevention and aggressive fire suppression action: (1) protect life and property in and adjacent to forested areas; (2) hold forest fire losses to a level which provides forest landowners a high probability of reaching their economic and environmental goals. Grow genetically improved forest tree seedlings to meet regeneration demands not met through private sector forest tree nurseries. Prepare comprehensive forest management plans for interested landowners; monitor forest insect and disease outbreaks and devise control measures; assist landowners in the implementation of their forest management plans; and provide information and educational programs to enhance the productivity of South Carolina's forests.

Performance Measures:

Workload:

- ◆ Suppressed 4,341 wildfires which burned 27,112 acres and processed 281,912 burning notifications.
- ◆ 17,572,000 forest and wildlife seedlings produced.
- ◆ 3,272 forest management plans written.
- ◆ 12,982 forest insect and disease infestations monitored.
- ◆ 1,356 forest management field follow-ups completed.
- ◆ 928 contracts completed under Commission's Forest Services Program.
(timber marking, prescribed burning, water bars, firebreak plowing, etc.)

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**Budget & Control Board
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET**

Efficiency:

- ◆ Provide comprehensive forest fire protection at a cost of \$1.08 per acre in state funds.
- ◆ 6.2 acres average forest fire size -- acreage burned was 0.21% of protected area.
- ◆ \$117,000,000 of insect and disease damaged timber identified for salvage.
- ◆ 210,163 acres of forest land examined by foresters as the initial step in formulating written management plans.
- ◆ 23,125 acres planted under cost share program using Commission technical assistance.

Outcomes:

- ◆ Comprehensive fire protection program allows S.C. landowners to achieve their economic and environmental goals.
- ◆ For each acre of beetle spots controlled an additional 2.5 to 4 acres of uninfested pines are protected.
- ◆ Well managed timber resource provides the wood using industry the raw material to support the state's third largest manufacturing industry which provides over 50,000 jobs.

PROGRAM - State Forests

Program Goal:

Manage, on a sustainable basis, Manchester and Harbison State Forests (see NOTE) comprised of 21,520 acres of land, for the benefit of the general public, forestry education and South Carolina's forest products economy.

Program Objectives:

Through multiple use forest management, utilize state forest lands as demonstration areas for forestry, wildlife, and recreation while maintaining a balance between environmental and economic values. Generate from forest products sales and recreational fees funds to cover 95% of Manchester and Harbison State Forests' operating costs. Both Manchester and Harbison State Forests provide twenty-five percent of gross receipts from each state forest to the county in which the funds are generated.

Performance Measures:

Workload:

- ◆ 825 acres of timber prepared for harvest.
- ◆ 98,500 seedling planted on 181 acres.
- ◆ 381 acres prescribed burned.
- ◆ 16,000 acres managed for wildlife under the state's WMA program for public hunting and non-game species.
- ◆ 68 wildlife food patches maintained on a total of 110 acres.
- ◆ 6 ponds managed for public fishing and waterfowl habitat.
- ◆ 6 colonies of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker protected and the habitat enhanced.
- ◆ 108 forest educational programs provided for approximately 2,593 people.
- ◆ 50 acres used as test sites for tree genetic research.
- ◆ 108 miles of roads improved and maintained.
- ◆ 11 hiking, biking, horse and motorcycle trails managed for public use.
- ◆ 8 acre rifle and pistol range made available to the public.

- ◆ 2,196 visits to utilize rifle/pistol range.
- ◆ 700 acre Stewardship Forest developed within Harbison State Forest.
- ◆ 1,000 acres of pine straw production sites managed and maintained.
- ◆ 2,366 recreational acres maintained for public use.
- ◆ 2,300 people participated in ten group events.
- ◆ 15 miles of Palmetto Trail opened for use.

Efficiency:

- ◆ \$185,084 (25% of income generated) paid to Richland and Sumter Counties in lieu of taxes.
- ◆ 1,704,762 board feet of sawtimber and 4,675 cords of pulpwood harvested.

Outcomes:

- ◆ Sustainable timber harvests support the local economy.
- ◆ Year round logging available at Manchester provides raw materials for forest industry during periods of wet weather.
- ◆ Recreational and educational experiences made available to the public. Approximately 55,000 visitors.

NOTE: Sand Hills State Forest (not included in this report), is 100% self-supporting and expends no state appropriated funds. Sand Hills State Forest is comprised of 46,000 acres and provides the same multiple benefits as Manchester and Harbison State Forests including a 25% payment of all receipts generated to the counties (Chesterfield and Darlington) where it is located.